

Message Text

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13

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 DRC-01 /125 W

----- 091809

R 110330Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6090

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652, GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, AF

SUBJ: TEXT OF SEPTEMBER COUP PLOTTERS CONFESSIONS

REF: KABUL 8338

1. FOLLOWING IS UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF CONFESSION STATEMENTS PLAYED OVER RADIO AFGHANISTAN ON DECEMBER 5. RADIO ANNOUNCER MADE INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT SAYING THAT COUP WAS TO BE CARRIED OUT "WITH FOREIGN HELP", AND THAT MOHAMMED HASHIM MAIWANDWAL WAS ITS GUIDING FORCE, WORKING THROUGH SMALL GROUPS WHOSE LEADERS REPORTED DIRECTLY TO HIM. TAPE SEGMENTS ARE CHOPPY AND AT TIMES HARD TO FOLLOW. IDENTIFICATION OF INDIVIDUALS HAS BEEN MADE WHERE POSSIBLE. NOTE THAT THE TRANSLATION HAS BEEN DONE IN THE THIRD PERSON, I.E. HE SAID, ETC., RATHER THAN I SAID.

2. HAJI FAQIR MOHAMMED: FORMER DEPUTY FROM JALALABAD, SAID HE PAID ARMY GENERAL KHAN MOHAMMED, POPULARLY KNOWN AS "MARASTYAL", A VISIT IN HIS HOUSE. MARASTYAL ASKED HIM TO JOIN IN A COUP.

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FAQIR MOHAMMED INQUIRED ABOUT THIS POWER TO ACHIEVE THIS.

MARASTYAL ASSURED HIM THAT HE HAD GOTTEN MAIWANDWAL, (BRIGADIER) ZARGHUN SHAH AND (BRIGADIER) KO AT ON HIS SIDE. ALSO HE RELIED ON MANY OTHER BRIGADIERS. IN TWO MEETINGS WITH MARASTYAL, HE (HAJI FAQIR) REALISED ONLY THIS MUCH.

RADIO ANNOUNCER: BRIGADIER ZARGHUN SHAH FIRST DENIED EVERYTHING AND ASKED FOR EVIDENCE AND WITNESSES. WHEN HE WAS CONFRONTED WITH HAJI FAQIR MOHAMMED, HE MADE A CLEAN BREAST OF THE WHOLE THING.

ZARGHUN SHAH: HE NAMED THE PEOPLE GATHERED THERE AT MARASTYAL'S HOUSE TALKING ABOUT THE COUP AS RET. AIR FORCE GENERAL ABDUR RAZAK, RET. BRIGADIER KOHAT, FORMER MP SAIFUR RAHMAN, (COLONEL) AMINULLAH AND AZIMULLAH. MARASTYAL SAID HE HIMSELF WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE GROUND FORCES WHILE ABDUR RAZAK WOULD UNDERTAKE TO COUNT ON THE AIR FORCE. GULSHAH ALI WOULD TAKE CARE OF THE VILIANS. THE TWO DEPUTIES (HAJI FAQIR AND SAIFUR RAHMAN) WOULD ALSO PREPARE THE GROUND AMONG MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC. ZARGHUN SHAH SAID THAT HE (KHAN MOHAMMAD) PAID THE EXPENSES HIMSELF. "THAT PIMP IS RICH." HE (KHAN MOHAMMED) TOLD HAJI FAQIR MOHAMMED, SAIFUR RAHMAN AND KOHAT TO TALK ABOUT THIS WITH RESERVE ARMY OFFICERS. THEY HAD NOT YET PENETRATED THE GARRISONS. GULSHAH ALI COMES FROM MOHAMMAND, KAMA (NANGARHAR). NO DECISION WAS MADE ABOUT THE NEXT MEETING. IT WAS TO TAKE PLACE NATURALLY IN HIS (KHAN MOHAMMAD'S) HOUSE. MARASTYAL SAID HE WOULD ARRANGE A FILE AND GET FROM EACH PERSON ENDORSING THE IDEA A WRITTEN COMMITMENT. ZARGHUN SHAH ATTENDED THE MEETING IN THE HOPES THAT MAIWANDWAL WOULD ALSO BE THERE. MAYBE KOHAT GAVE SUCH A PLEDGE. HE (KOHAT) TALKS TOO MUCH AND INCOHERENTLY TOO. HE DID NOT REMEMBER HIS EXACT WORDS. HE SAID HE WOULD BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR RESERVE OFFICERS AMONG WHOM HE HAD SOME FRIENDS. ABDUR RAZAQ MENTIONED NO NAMES.

MARASTYAL (GEN. KHAN MOHAMMAD KHAN) - ACCORDING TO THE PLAN HE IMAGINED, AND HE IMAGINED IT BECAUSE IT WAS NOT YET TRANSLATED INTO ACTION, HE WANTED TO USE FORCES WHICH COULD BRING ABOUT A REVOLUTION. THESE CONSISTED OF THE MULLAHS (CLERGY), VILLAGE CHIEFTAINS AND OTHER INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE WHO WERE IN A POSITION TO INCITE THE PUBLIC TO REBELLION. THEY WERE FIRST TO BE RALLIED AROUND ONE POINT AND THEN EACH BE GIVEN A DUTY. TOGETHER, THEY WERE TO GIVE OUT THAT THE PRESENT REGIME WAS GOING TO SEIZE THE PEOPLE'S LANDS AND OTHER POSSESSIONS SO THAT THEY SHOULD TURN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AGAINST IT. IF REBELLION BROKE OUT IN ONE PLACE, THE FORCES FROM KABUL WERE TO BE DESPATCHED THERE. IF SEVERAL REBELLIONS WERE TO BREAK OUT IN SEVERAL PLACES, NO FORCES CAPABLE OF DEFENDING THE CAPITAL WOULD REMAIN. AND WHATEVER THERE WAS COULD BE OVERWHELMED OVERNIGHT.

RADIO ANNOUNCER - THE PRESENT REGIME IS THERE TO SAFEGUARD THE PEOPLE'S POSESSION.

MARASTYAL (GEN KHAN MOHAMMAD) - HE DID NOT REMEMBER THE DATE BUT ABDUR RAZAQ WAS THE FIRST MAN HE CONSULTED ON THIS PLAN TO WHICH HE (RAZAK) CONSENTED. HE ALSO TALKED WITH THOSE WHO VISITED HIM IN HIS HOUSE ON THIS MATTER. HE ESTABLISHED CONTACT WITH AIWANDWAL THROUGH GENERAL ABDUS SALAM (MALIKYAR, ALSO KNOWN AS SALAM JAN) WHO VISITED MARASTYAL IN HIS HOUSE AND WAS CRITICAL ABOUT THE PRESENT REGIME. (SALAM JAN) INFORMED HIM THAT MAIWANDWAL WAS IN MOSCOW. WHEN SALAM JAN PAID HIM ANOTHER VISIT, HE (SALAM JAN) ASSURED HIM THAT MAIWANDWAL WAS ENDORSING THE IDEA. MARASTYAL MET WITH MAIWANDWAL THREE TIMES, ONCE IN ALAUDDIN (A SECTION OF KABUL) WHICH WAS MORE DETAILED. THDY DECIDED TO MEET AGAIN NEXT TIME. MARASTYAL MADE A NOTE OF THE NAMES OF THOSE WHO WERE ALREADY COMMITTED. ABDUR RAZAK AGREED TO HAVE THE AIR FORCE UNDER HIS THUMB. MARASTYAL DAILY BRIEFED ABDUR RAZAK ON HIS ACTIVITIES. MARASTYAL HAD TWO MEETINGS WITH GENERAL NIK MOHAMMED SAHAK AND HE (SAHAK) COMMITTED HIMSELF. GENERAL RAHIM NASSERI WHOM MARASTYAL ALSO MET TWICE GAVE A POSITIVE ANSWER. MARASTYAL SENT A MESSAGE TO GENERAL ABDUL JABBAR (MALIYAR) THROUGH HIS BROTHER (SALAM JAN) ASKING TO TIP OFF THE MOTORIZED UNITS. ALAM JAN SSURED MARASTYAL ABOUT HIS BROTHER'S READINESS. MARASTYAL ALSO MET WITH ZARGHUN SHAH TWICE AND HE SAID HE WAS PREPARED TO TAKE PART IN THE PLAN. NOOR MOHAMMED ONLY ONCE PAID HIM A VISIT. HE WAS CHIEF OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE IN CENTRAL FORCES. MARASTYAL TOLD SARWAT SHAH TO BE PREPARED AND BRIEFED HIM ON THE GOINGS ON. A FEW DEAYS LATER, HE (SARWAT SHAH) TOLD MARASTYAL THAT HE WAS TRANSFERRED TO HERAT. MARASTYAL ASKED HIM TO MAKE SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS THERE. MARASTYAL MET WITH SAIFUR RAHMAN ONLY ONCE AND HE READILY AGREED. IN CASE ANYBODY DENIED THIS, MARASTYAL WOULD SAY THIS IN IN HIS PRESENCE.

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R 110330Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6091
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
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RADIO ANNOUNCER - AND BY CONFRONTING THE PLOTTERS, ADMISSIONS
WERE FORTHCOMING.

MARASTYAL - NEK MOHAMMED COMES FROM KAMA AND WAS ONE OF MARASTYAL'S
STUDENTS. HE ONLY CAME ONCE TO VISIT HIM (KHAN MOHAMMAD). (NEK
MOHAMMED FIRST DENIED THIS BUT LATER SAID MARASTYAL ENCOURAGED
HIM TO HELP THE NEW REGIME). MARASTYAL REFUTED THIS AND MENTIONED
THAT HE RAISED WITH NEK MOHAMMED A COUP PLAN. MARASTYAL ALSO MET
WITH SHER AFZAL (WHO DENIED THIS IN THE BEGINNING BUT SAID LATER
THAT HE WANTED TO PAY HIM A VISIT BUT MARASTYAL WAS OUT).
ARASTYAL REFUTED THIS, SAYING HE ASKED SHER AFZAL ABOUT HIS
PROMOTION AND HE (SHER AFZAL) SAID NO PROMOTION FOR HIM (SHER
AFZAL) AFTER THE COUP. (SHER AFZAL PERSISTED IN HIS DENIAL).

RADIO ANNOUNCER - NOW LISTEN TO WHAT MOHAMMED AKRAM (PILOT) SAYS.

MOHAMMED AKRAM - AIR FORCE COMMANDER SAYED AMIR AND MUMTAZ KHAN
TOOK HIM (AKRAM) HOME AND TOLD HIM THERE MAIWANDWAL WAS STAGING
A COUP.

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SAYED AMIR - THIS COUP WAS LED BY MAIWANDWAL. ABDUR RAZAK AND HE
(SAYID AMIR) WERE GOING TO TAKE CHARGE OF THE AIR FORCE AND KHAN
MOHAMMED (MARASTYAL) WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE GROUND FORCES.
THE MEETING TOOK PLACE AT ABDUR RAZAK'S. MUMTAZ, SAYED AMIR AND

DAWA JAN WERE ALSO THERE. ABDUR RAZAK TOLD THEM THERE THAT THEY
WERE PLOTTING A COUP FOR THE GOOD OF THE NATION. HE ASKED THE AIR
FORCE OFFICERS TO CONVERT MORE OF THEIR COLLEAGUES. THE SECOND
MEETING WAS HELD AT MAIWANDWAL'S. SAYED AMIR, MUMTAZ AND DAWA JAN
WERE ALSO THERE. MARASTYAL WAS ASKED TO TAKE CARE OF THE GROUND
FORCES, ABDUR RAZAK OF ALL THE AIR FORCE. MOHAMMED AKRAM WAS
SUPPOSED TO BRING THE AIRCRAFT FROM BAGRAM AIRPORT TO SUPPORT THE
GROUND FORCES AND USE BOMBS AND ROCKETS. THERE WERE SEVERAL CIVIL
AND MILITARY OFFICERS AT MAIWANDWAL'S. MOHAMMED AKRAM ON GETTING OUT
OF THE HOUSE ASKED MUMTAZ KHAN IF THEY WERE SUFFICIENTLY SUPPORTED.
HE SAID THERE WAS NO ONE FROM THE MOTORIZED UNITS TO SUPPORT THEM.

BRIGADIER MUMTAZ - HE ATTENDED THREE MEETINGS AT MAIWANDWAL'S.

FORMER AIR FORCE COMMANDER, GENERAL GULBAHAR, ASLAM KHAN AND MOHAMMED AKRAM WERE ALSO THERE. MAIWANDWAL WAS THE COUP LEADER AND RESPONSIBLE FOR FOREIGN POLICY WHILE MARASTYAL AND ABDUR RAZAK WERE THE TWO MOST IMPORTANT MEN.

AIR FORCE COMMANDER SAYED AMIR - HE SAID HE WAS SITTING IN A TAXI CAB AND MOHAMMED AKRAM TOLD HIM THEY WERE GOING TO MAIWANDWAL'S. MARASTYAL, ABDUR RAZAK, GUL BAHAR AND A FEW CIVILIANS WERE ALSO THERE. IN THE FIRST MEETING, EVERYONE WAS GIVEN A DUTY. IN THE SECOND, THEY WERE TOLD TO MAKE PREPARATIONS. PRESIDENT DAOUD WAS TO BE KIDNAPPED BY THE GROUND FORCES OF WHICH MARASTYAL WAS TO BE THE BOSS. MAIWANDWAL WAS TO FINANCE THE WHOLE OPERATION. HE (MAIWANDWAL) PROMISED SAYED AMIR \$10,000 AND PAID UP \$2,000 OF THE TOTAL. HE (SAYID AMIR) ADMITTED TO TAKING THE MONEY.

GENERAL ABDUR RAZAK - IN THE FIRST MEETING, IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE DETAILS WOULD BE EXPLAINED IN THE SECOND. THIS INVOLVED A COUP TO CORRECT THE SHORTCOMINGS. MARASTYAL SAID HE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR GROUND FORCES AND ABDUR RAZAK SHOULD BE LIKEWISE IN THE CASE OF AIR FORCE. HE (RAZAK) TOLD THEM THAT HE WAS AWAY FROM THE AIR FORCE FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS. BUT MAIWANDWAL INTERRUPTED, SAYING SOMEONE WOULD SEE HIM ON THIS MATTER SOON. WHEREUPON SAYED AMIR AND MOHAMMED AKRAM PAID HIM (RAZAK) A VISIT. UNFORTUNATELY, HE MADE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE BLUNDER AND COMMITTED HIMSELF. HOWEVER, HIS (RAZAK'S) FRIENDS DID NOT OFTEN CRITICIZE THE REGIME. ON THE CONTRARY, THEY WELCOMED IT. HE (RAZAK) TOO WAS NOT AGAINST THE REGIME BUT WAS INFLUENCED BY OTHERS. EVERYBODY MAY HARBOR SOME IDEA'S ABOUT HIS COUNTRY' WELL BEING. NONE OF THE PROPAGANDAS STARTED AGAINST THE REGIME IS TRUE. THEY ALL AANAGE FROM PERSONAL AMBITIONS AND EGOTISTICAL IDEAS. OTHERWISE THE (RAZAK) COULD NOT FIND ANYTHING ABOUT THE REGIME WHICH HE COULD CRITICISE, NOR ANYTHING ABOUT THOSE WHO RUN IT. AT ANY RATE, THEY (THE PLOTTERS) THOUGHT THE REGIME WAS NOT YET FIRMLY ESTABLISHED AND THEY COULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SITUATION.

ELIOT

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